

DIETITIANS and NUTRITIONISTS work in a wide variety of settings such as schools, prisons, hospitals, nursing homes, and other health care facilities.

Dietitians and Nutritionists plan and supervise the preparation of meals for patients/clients and confer with physicians and other medical professionals about each patient's/client's nutritional needs and preferences. They may coordinate diet therapy and nutritional education programs, including teaching patients and their families about specific diets to be followed. They may also instruct groups or individuals about the nutritional care of conditions such as diabetes, obesity, and pregnancy. Some Dietitians may make nutritional presentations to medical professionals. Others may conduct nutritional research and write reports to communicate the research findings.

Requirements

- ▲ Completion of a bachelor's degree in food service management, nutrition, or dietetics from a college accredited by the American Dietetic Association (ADA).
- ▲ Registered Dietitian certification is increasingly preferred by employers.
- ▲ Good judgment and decision making.
- ▲ Good written and oral communication skills.
- ▲ Interest in the care of clients.
- ▲ Fingerprint clearance may be required by employer.

Wages

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| ▲ Dieticians and Nutritionists
Median hourly wage: | \$26.84 |
| ▲ Average annual wage: | \$55,884 |

Source: Occupational Employment Survey of Employers 2006 by EDD/LMID.

Dietitians and Nutritionists

Job Outlook

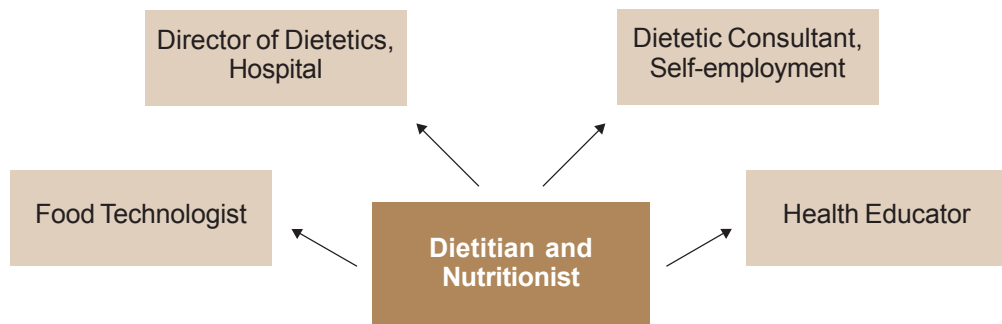
- ▲ Estimated number of Dietitians and Nutritionists in 2004: 4,800
- ▲ Estimated number of Dietitians and Nutritionists in 2014: 5,800
- ▲ Estimated annual job openings: 230

Source: Occupational Projections, EDD/LMID.

Sources of Information

- ▲ American Dietetic Association
(800) 877-1600
www.eatright.org
- ▲ California Dietetic Association
(310) 822-0177
www.dietitian.org
- ▲ *California Occupational Guide*, No. 98
Dietitians and Dietetic Technicians

Possible Career Paths



The skills, knowledge, and abilities acquired for the primary occupation provide a solid foundation for further growth in health career occupations. Additional education or training is often required.